

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, CY, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOT LABOR LEADERS MEET

REF: NICOSIA 0732 (DTG 161356Z MAR 77)

1. USEFUL BUT LARGELY UNEVENTFUL MEETINGS BETWEEN LEADERS OF
GREEK CYPRIOT WORKERS CONFEDERATION (SEK) AND TURKISH
CYPRIOT LABOR FEDERATION (TURK-SEN), TOOK PLACE
MAR 18-19 IN NEUTRAL GROUND OF LEDRA PALACE HOTEL
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UNDER AUSPICES OF ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN.
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING MEETINGS NOTED THAT PRESENCE
OF CYPRIOT DELEGATIONS AT SAME TABLE WAS DEMONSTRATION
OF THEIR MUTUAL GOODWILL; AFFIRMED RIGHT OF WORKERS
TO WORK, EARN AND LIVE WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION;
NOTED THAT TURKISH SIDE IN RESPONSE TO GREEK REQUEST
HANDED OVER SOCIAL INSURANCE CARDS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

FROM SEK OFFICES IN FAMAGUSTA; SAID THAT VARIOUS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND AGREED; AND CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS MARKED THROUGHOUT BY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE OF GOODWILL. TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN, WITH DATE FOR MEETING TO BE FIXED BY LEADERS OF BOTH SIDES AT ILO CONFERENCE IN GENEVA THIS JUNE.

2. IN MEETING WITH PRESS, ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OPERATION OF CERTAIN FACTORIES IN BUFFER ZONE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AND THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING MR. DENKTASH ON THIS MATTER BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. KERSTEN POINTED TO NEED FOR FLEXIBLE ATTITUDES IN NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT LABOR LEADERS' MEETINGS WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE CLIMATE IN WHICH SOLUTION OF MORE GENERAL PROBLEMS IS POSSIBLE.

3. SEK SECRETARY GENERAL IOANNOU SAID PRESENT DIFFICULTIES COULD BE OVERCOME WITH GOODWILL AND CALLED FOR JOINT STRUGGLE TO RESTORE PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD BETWEEN GREEKS AND TURKS WITHIN AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS.

4. TURK-SEN SECRETARY GENERAL TASHKIN SAID THAT MEETING WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS FACING FREE TRADE UNIONS MOVEMENT OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES AND MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. TASHKIN, MINDFUL OF EARLIER CRITICISM FROM SOME ELEMENTS WITHIN HIS COMMUNITY, ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND THAT TURK-SEN DID NOT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY UNDERTAKINGS AT THE MEETINGS WHICH CONFLICTED WITH TURKISH COMMUNITY'S POLICY.
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